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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Sixty-third session
Geneva, 21 -24 April 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations *

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 21 April.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters of interest since the last session
3. Standards on trial
4. Explanatory brochure and Standard for Persimmons
5. Revision of UNECE standards
6. Traceability
7. Food waste related to the use of standards
8. Glossary of Terms used in UNECE Standards

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm and transmit it to the secretariat either by e-mail (subashini.narasimhan@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917-06-29). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves, with a valid identification card/passport, at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny entrance to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem, please call 022 917-15-14). Documents for the meeting and information for Geneva visitors are also available on the website.

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9. Standard Layout for explanatory text in UNECE brochures
10. Coordination of work with other international organizations
11. Promotion and capacity-building
12. Future work
13. Other business
14. Election of officers
15. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will adopt the agenda.

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/1)

2. Matters of interest since the last session

(a) UNECE and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will inform the delegates about the outcome of the November 2014 session of the Working Party and of other decisions by the UNECE governing bodies which might have an impact on the work of the Specialized Section.

Documentation: Report of the Working Party (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/2)

(b) Other organizations

Representatives of other organizations and country delegations will inform the Specialized Section about activities taking place in their agencies that are of relevance to the work of the Section.

3. Standards on trial

The Specialized Section will review the Standard for Sweet Chestnuts and the draft Standard for Lambs Lettuce. At its 2014 session, the Working Party put them on trial as recommendations through November 2015.

The Specialized Section may wish to follow up on its decision to develop an electronic version of an explanatory brochure for lambs lettuce.

Documentation: Revision of the standard for Sweet Chestnuts (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/7)

Draft Standard for Lambs Lettuce (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/2014/8)

4. Explanatory brochure and Standard for Persimmons

The delegations will consider the Recommendation for Persimmons as well as the text and photographs of the draft brochure. To allow countries to consult with the industry, the

documents containing the proposals for amendments developed by the Working Group at its meetings in Valencia (November 2013), Faenza (October 2014) and Geneva (November 2014) were circulated to delegations in November 2014. The Specialized Section may wish to take a decision on recommending the brochure and the standard to the Working Party for approval.

Documentation: Draft brochure and Recommendation (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/3)

Photographs for the brochure (PowerPoint presentation)

5. Revision of UNECE standards

(a) Citrus fruit

The delegation of South Africa will present the proposals of the Working Group on citrus fruit labelling. The Working Group agreed on these proposals at its meeting in Geneva in November 2014. Following the meeting, the secretariat circulated the report containing the proposals. The Specialized Section will revisit the "Definition of produce" and "Provisions concerning marking" sections of the standard to decide on how the labelling-related provisions could be made less ambiguous and easier to follow.

Documentation: Report of the Working Group (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/4)

(b) Apples

The Specialized Section will continue its discussion on the structure of the List of Varieties taking into consideration the correspondence received from the delegation of the Netherlands and WAPA.

Documentation: Proposals by the Netherlands (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/5)
Position of WAPA (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/6)
Standard for Apples (Post-session document of FFV 2014)

(c) Truffles

The delegation of France will provide information on the recent changes in the French national regulation concerning this product. The Specialized Section will review the "Definition of produce" section of the Standard for Truffles accordingly.

Documentation: Information note by France (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/7)
Standard for truffles, proposals by France (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/8)

(d) Garlic

The delegation of Spain will make proposals on revising the Standard for Garlic to reflect the results of the OECD work on an explanatory brochure for this product.

Documentation: Proposals by Spain (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/9)

(e) Watermelons

The Specialized Section will continue its work on revising the Standard for Watermelons using the 2014 post-session text of the standard.

Documentation: Draft revision of the Standard for Watermelons (Post-session document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2014/7)

(f) Early and ware potatoes

The delegation of Hungary is expected to provide information supporting their proposals for revising the standard made at the 2014 session of the Specialized Section. The delegations will continue work on the text of the standard, particularly on the minimum requirement provisions for the depth and surface area of subepidermal stains. The Specialized Section will review the provisions on tolerances proposed at the 2013 session. The 2014 post-session text of the standard will be used.

Documentation: Draft revision of the Standard for Early and Ware Potatoes (Post-session document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2014/8)

(g) Tomatoes

The delegations will revisit the 2014 post-session text of the standard to decide on whether to delete "cherry tomatoes" from the commercial types listed in the "Definition of produce" section.

Documentation: Draft revision of the Standard for Tomatoes (Post-session document of FFV 2014)

(h) Leeks

The Specialized Section may wish to review the Standard for Leeks to take into account the OECD work on an explanatory brochure for this product.

Documentation: Standard for Leeks (FFV-21)

(i) Other standards

Depending on the requests from countries, the Specialized Section may wish to consider other standards.

6. Traceability

Based on a discussion at the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables, the delegations of France, Hungary and Poland have requested a discussion on how marking or labelling provisions of the standards could support traceability.

7. Food waste related to the use of standards

As a result of the discussion held at the 2014 meeting, the Specialized Section set up a Working Group, composed of the delegations of France, Germany, Malaysia, Sweden (Rapporteur), United Kingdom and the United States. The Working Group will report on their activity and make suggestions on future work.

Documentation: Proposal by Sweden (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/10)

8. Glossary of Terms used in UNECE Standards

The 2014 session of the Working Party formed a Working Group, composed of France (Rapporteur), Germany, New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom and the United States, to advance work on the Glossary of Terms used in UNECE standards on fresh fruits and vegetables and invited the Group to report to the 2015 session.

Documentation: Draft Glossary of Terms (revised document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2014/12)

9. Standard Layout for explanatory text in UNECE brochures

The delegations will consider a standard layout for the explanatory text in brochures developed by UNECE. This text could be the basis for future work on brochures. Being harmonized with the standard layout text for explanatory notes of the OECD Scheme it would also facilitate the translation of OECD brochures into Russian when needed. The Specialized Section may wish to take a decision on recommending the standard layout for explanatory text to the Working Party for approval.

Documentation: Proposal by the Chairperson (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.1/2015/11)

10. Coordination of work with other international organizations

International organizations will be invited to report on their activities relevant to the ECE FFV and to discuss potential cooperation.

11. Promotion and capacity-building

The delegations and the secretariat will exchange information about their promotional and capacity-building activities.

12. Future work

The Specialized Section will discuss its future work.

The Specialized Section may wish to decide whether the following standards, last amended in 2010, need to be reviewed in 2016: anonas, artichokes, asparagus, aubergines, avocados, beans, berry fruit, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, ceps, cherries, cucumbers, courgettes, kiwifruit, peaches and nectarines, peas, ribbed celery, rhubarb, root and tubercle vegetables, strawberries, and table grapes.

13. Other business

Any other issues of interest for the work of the Specialized Section can be discussed under this agenda item.

14. Election of officers

The Specialized Section will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At its sixty-second session, it elected Ms. Ulrike Bickelmann (Germany) as Chair and Ms. Kristina Mattsson (Sweden) as Vice-Chair.

15. Adoption of the report

The Specialized Section will adopt the report of the session.

III. Tentative timetable

Tuesday, 21 April	10:00 - 13:00	Working Group meetings (Brochure on persimmons)
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 1, 2, 3
Wednesday, 22 April	10:00 - 13:00	Items 4, 5
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 6, 7, 8
Thursday, 23 April	10:00 - 13:00	Item 9, 10
	15:00 - 18:00	Items 11, 12, 13
Friday, 24 April	10:00 - 13:00	Items 14, 15